Key Security Features

Watermark
Hold the note to light and look for a faint image of three numeral 5s to the left of the portrait. The image is visible from both sides of the note.

Security Thread
Hold the note to light to see an embedded thread running vertically to the right of the portrait. The thread is imprinted with the letters USA and the numeral 5 in an alternating pattern and is visible from both sides of the note. The thread glows blue when illuminated by ultraviolet light.

Watermark
Hold the note to light and look for a faint image of a large numeral 5 in the blank space to the right of the portrait. The image is visible from both sides of the note.

Additional Design and Security Features

Federal Reserve System Seal
A black seal to the left of the portrait represents the entire Federal Reserve System. A letter and number beneath the left serial number identifies the distributing Federal Reserve Bank.

Microprinting
Look carefully (magnification may be necessary) to see the small printed text FIVE DOLLARS repeated inside the left and right borders of the note, E PLURIBUS UNUM at the top of the shield within the Great Seal, and USA repeated in between the columns of the shield. On the back of the note the text USA FIVE appears along one edge of the large purple numeral 5.

Raised Printing
Move your finger along the note’s surface to feel the raised printing, which gives genuine Federal Reserve notes their distinctive texture.

Paper
Federal Reserve note paper is one-fourth linen and three-fourths cotton, and contains red and blue security fibers.

Color
The center of the note is light purple, blending to gray near the edges.

Portrait and Vignette
The $5 note features a portrait of President Lincoln on the front of the note and a vignette of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the note.

Symbol of Freedom
The Great Seal of the United States, featuring an eagle and shield, is printed in purple to the right of the portrait of President Lincoln. An arc of purple stars surrounds the portrait and The Great Seal.

Purple 5
A large purple numeral 5 on the back of the note helps those with visual impairments distinguish the denomination.

Treasury Seal
A green seal to the right of the portrait represents the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Serial Numbers
A unique combination of eleven numbers and letters appears twice on the front of the note.

Series Year

For more information about U.S. currency visit www.uscurrency.gov